

App. No. 10/019592  
Office Action Dated September 1, 2004  
Amd. Dated December 29, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 16 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 10-15 and 17 are amended.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition including a water insoluble abrasive filler substance, wherein the abrasive filler substance is selected from the group consisting of abrasive silica, calcium carbonate, talc, kaolin and mixtures thereof and is encapsulated in microspheres of cross-linked alginate,

wherein the microspheres comprise 80% to 99% by weight the abrasive filler substance.

11. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim [[1]] 10, wherein the microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 0.6 and 1.5 mm.

App. No. 10/019592  
Office Action Dated September 1, 2004  
Amd. Dated December 29, 2004

12. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim [[1]] 10, wherein the microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 1 and 1.2 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim [[1]] 10, wherein the microspheres are present in quantities from 1% to 10% by weight referred to the weight of the chewing gum.

14. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim [[1]] 10, wherein the abrasive filler substance is present in particles having dimensions expressed as equivalent average diameter, lying between 2 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim [[5]] 14, wherein the -abrasive filler substance has a particle size lying between 6 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim [[1]] 10, wherein the microspheres further include ingredients chosen from flavorings, sweeteners, active agents and mixtures thereof.

App. No. 10/019592  
Office Action Dated September 1, 2004  
Amd. Dated December 29, 2004